

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4208

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

USCINSCO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3951

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, OAS, ES, HO

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF MANAGUA MEETING FROM GOH VIEWPOINT

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3898 (DTG 102042Z AUG 1976)

BEGIN SUMMARY. POLOFF MET WITH VICE-FOREIGN MINISTER CALLEJAS ON MORNING OF AUGUST 13. CALLEJAS SAID THAT GOES DELEGATION AFTER SIGNING DOCUMENT HAD ADDED RESERVATION TO AGREEMENT OF MANAGUA STATING

THAT GOES COULD NOT ACCEPT FINAL PARAGRAPH OF AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT INCLUDED STATEMENT SAYING THAT IT WAS A STEP TOWARD A DEFINITE BORDER SETTLEMENT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE GOES DELEGATION HAD OBJECTED TO THE INCLUSION OF SABANETAS AND LAS PILAS IN THE AREAS DESCRIBED IN THE PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT WHERE THERE HAD BEEN ARMED INCIDENTS. HE REMARKED THAT ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TASKS HAD BEEN THE DEFINITION OF THE EXTENT OF THE DISPUTED AREAS WHERE THERE HAD BEEN REPREATED INCIDENTS. THE GOH IS CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AFTER THE OAS OBSERVERS LEAVE AND IS CONSIDERING VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES TO BRING ABOUT A GENERAL NEGOTIATION AIMED AT
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BORDER DELIMITATION. END SUMMARY.

1. POLOFF HAD CONVERSATION WITH VICE-FONMIN CALLEJAS MORNING OF AUGUST 13 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF MANAGUA MEETING. HE REMARKED THAT MEETING LASTED SO LONG BECAUSE OF SEVERAL BASIC PROBLEMS. AS REPORTED

REFTEL, THE ACTA (AGREEMENT) OF MANAGUA (SEE SEPTTEL) HAD BEEN SIGNED BY THE HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN CHIEFS OF STAFF AND THE COMMANDER OF THE OAS OBSERVERS, GENERAL LUIS MARIA MIRO, ON AUGUST 9. IN ESSENCE, THE AGREEMENT IS DESIGNED TO PUT THE SECURITY AND PEACE-KEEPING ASPECTS OF THE 1970 PROTOCOL OF SAN JOSE INTO EFFECT. ACCORDING TO CALLEJAS, AFTER THE GOH AND GOES DELEGATIONS HAD AGREED TO ALL THE BASIC ARTICLES OF THE AGREEMENT, GENERAL MIRO AND OAS OBSERVERS HAD ADDED THE CLOSING PARAGRAPH WHICH STATED, IN PART, THAT THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED AS A STEP "TO THE INITIATION OF THE DEFINITE SETTLEMENT OF THE BORDER BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR BY THE APPROPRIATE MECHANISMS OF THE OAS". HE SAID THAT THE HEAD OF THE GOES DELEGATION, GENERAL ROJAS, HAD SIGNED THE AGREEMENT WITHOUT NOTICING THE ADDITION; SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN GENERAL MIRO HAD WANTED TO MAKE A MINOR GRAMMATICAL CHANGE AND AGAIN SHOWED THE AGREEMENT TO ROJAS HE BECAME AWARE OF WHAT HE HAD SIGNED. THEREFORE, THE SALVADORAN DELEGATION HAD TO APPEND A RESERVATION STATING THAT THE GOES COULD NOT ACCEPT THE PROVISION BECAUSE IT EXCEEDED THE MANDATE OF THE OAS OBSERVER GROUP. HE NOTED THAT THE GOH DELEGATION ALSO APPENDED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH A RESERVATION IN A BILATERAL DOCUMENT BUT LEFT OPEN THE QUESTION OF HOW THE MATTER IS TO BE TREATED.

2. CALLEJAS OBSERVED THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS GENERAL IN NATURE AND REQUIRED A PROTOCOL (SEE SEPTTEL) TO DETERMINE CONCRETE MEASURES OF CONTROL. ONE OF THE MAJOR POINTS IN DRAFTING THE PROTOCOL WAS TO DEFINE THE NUMBER OF FRONTIER AREAS WHERE THERE HAD BEEN ARMED INCIDENTS. CALLEJAS SAID THAT THE GOH DELEGATION HAD PROPOSED THE INCLUSION OF THE AREAS OF ZAZALAPA, DOLORES, LAS PILAS, AND SABANETAS.

HE NOTED THAT THE OTHER TWO POCKETS OF GOASCORAN AND TEPANGUISIR HAD ALWAYS BEEN PEACEFUL AND, IN EFFECT, WERE NOT REALLY IN DISPUTE. HE REMARKED THAT THE SALVADORANS HAD NOT WANTED TO INCLUDE SABANETAS OR LAS PILAS BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD DEFINE THOSE AREAS WHERE THERE IS AN UNDEFINED BORDER AND, ACCORDING TO CALLEJAS, THE SALVADORANS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RELUCTANT TO PUBLICLY DEFINE SUCH AREAS. EVENTUALLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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AFTER A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION, THE GOES DELEGATION AGREED TO INCLUDE SABANETAS AND LAS PILAS BUT STATED IN THE PROTOCOL THAT THERE HAD 33, NO INCIDENTS IN THE TWO AREAS. CALLEJAS BELIEVES THAT THE DESIGNATION OF THE FOUR DISPUTED AREAS IS A STEP FORWARD IN DEFINING THE DIMENSIONS OF THE BORDER PROBLEM FOR OAS MEMBER STATES. THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL IS TO BE COMPLETED BY NOON, AUGUST 15.

3. HE ALSO SAID THAT, AS PART OF THE PROTOCOL, THERE IS A SECTION SETTING FORTH THE AREAS DESCRIBED BY EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS AS PLACES WHERE ARMED INCIDENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. HONDURAS SUPPLIED INFORMATION ON THE BASIS OF TRACING A LINE ON THE GROUND, THAT IS, FROM POINT A TO B TO C IN DISPUTED AREAS; HOWEVER, EL SALVADOR ONLY SUPPLIED MAP COORDINATES (SEE SEPTTEL). CALLEJAS COMMENTED THAT THE SALVADORANS DIDN'T WANT TO DEFINE LINES AS HAD THE GOH BECAUSE IT COULD, IN THE GOES, VIEW, PREJUDICE THE SALVADORAN POSITION.

4. CALLEJAS SAID THAT THE GOH IS CONCERNED ABOUT A REVERSION TO THE SITUATION PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE OBSERVERS AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE.

AS A STOPGAP MEASURE THE GOH HAS PROPOSED AN EXTENSION OF THE OAS OBSERVERS FOR 3 MONTHS AND HAS OFFERED TO PAY 50 PER CENT OF THE COSTS

INVOLVED. HE SAID THAT THE COST WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE BUT WORTH IT IF THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF REACHING A BORDER SETTLEMENT.

5. CALLEJAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOH IS CONSIDERING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

AND OF HOW TO USE THE PRESENT SITUATION TO DRAMATIZE THE FRONTIER QUESTION. WHILE NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, THE GOH IS THINKING OF CONVOKING A MEETING OF THE OAS ORGAN OF CONSULTATION WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE GOH TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE BORDER QUESTION AS A THREAT TO REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY.

6. CALLEJAS ALSO SAID THAT THE PRESENT SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO HONDURAS,

EVARISTO RON VILAS, HAD JUST RETURNED FROM MADRID AND IS RETURNING SOON TO TAKE UP A POSITION IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. ACCORDING TO CALLEJAS, THE AMBASSADOR HAD SAID THAT THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TAKEN AN INTEREST IN THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR DISPUTE
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AND THAT THERE MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY SPAIN WOULD OFFER TO ACT AS THE ARBITER. CALLEJAS REMAKED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE.

7. BEGIN COMMENT. THE GOH LEADERSHIP IS PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING IN MANAGUA BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT IT SHOWED THAT THE GOES IS THE RECALCITRANT PARTY IN REGARD TO FRONTIER DELIMITATION.

HOWEVER, THEY ARE CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE OBSERVERS; IN SHORT, THERE IS A GENERAL FEELING THAT THEY SHOULD TAKE SOME DECISIVE ACTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN AN ATTEMPT TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE. HOWEVER, THEY ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED AND ARE EXAMINING ALL POSSIBLE WAYS OF UTILIZING THE PRESENT SITUATION FOR THAT PURPOSE. END COMMENT.
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